

NESHAMINY SCHOOL BOARD VOTES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY TO EXPAND SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE AREA

Decide Upon Financing of New \$2,000,000 Junior-Senior High School; Hear Opinions Given by Experts; Financial Structure Considered of Each of Districts

(BY A STAFF REPORTER)

LANGHORNE, Mar. 5 — Following discussion and consideration of state and local authorities, last night, by C. C. Collings of the C. C. Collings Investment House, Philadelphia, and Robert Morris, experts in the field of investment finance, and following a half hour of discussion in a closed session, the members of the Neshaminy Joint School District unanimously voted to form the Lower Bucks County School Authority for the purpose of financing a new \$2,000,000 school, at a special meeting held at Neshaminy high school last evening.

This special meeting climaxed years of discussion of new school facilities. At the last meeting held February 21st, it had been decided to request an extension of the State Authority deadline of February 28th, which was granted and set for tomorrow, and to contact the C. C. Collings Co. for a study of present investment conditions to determine if the new school could be financed more cheaply through a local authority. The finance committee was unable to meet with Collings before last night's meeting. He was present to address the board.

Collings stated before the meeting was called to order, "I have enough of the figures, assessments, tax rates, percentages of payment, and the reimbursement fractions, and on the basis of experience and knowledge of the present market, I can reach a generally accurate decision."

The meeting was called to order by President John E. Paul, who called upon Thomas E. Coe, chairman of the finance committee. Coe spoke briefly of his personal pleasure in being so close to the building of new facilities, which "have been spoken of for many years." Coe presented Collings to the board.

Collings discussed the advantages of local authority compared to state authority. He said, "Once a local authority has been formed, it can either add to or subtract from school facilities. I have spoken to three of the leading legal houses in Phila. and they advised me that it is not yet known who owns school facilities if they have been built through the state authority. A local authority every year pays the annual interest, the authority costs, and save 20 to 25% of the annual interest cost in a surplus revenue fund. This fund is controlled to a small degree by the state Board of Education, which permits the money to be used to buy and retire bonds at a saving. This is not possible through the state authority. Furthermore there is a great deal of red tape involved in a state authority. As a result, contractors bid higher on state work. The financing can be done more cheaply through a local authority. The interest rate has never been as high as the state in-

Continued on Page Four

NAMES A NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR CLUB

Meeting Precedes Sewing
Demonstration for Fairless
Hills Group

PLAN A MAY DANCE

FAIRLESS HILLS, Mar. 5—The naming of a nominating committee in preparation for election of officers in April, preceded a sewing demonstration for members of Fairless Hills Women's Club, last evening. The meeting took place in the community house, here.

Mrs. James Chisholm, president, named to the nominating committee: Mrs. Willard Patton, chairman; Mrs. Jacint Caldarazzo, Mrs. Joseph Phillips, Mrs. J. R. Noland, Mrs. Arthur Brown. Installation of officers will take place in May.

The sewing demonstration was by Mrs. E. B. Brittan and Mrs. S. Allen, of Trenton, N. J. Two sewing lessons, door prizes, were awarded to Mrs. John Kofchock and Mrs. C. B. Smiley.

Mrs. Fred Watts was welcomed by Mrs. Chisholm as the club sponsor.

A dance was arranged for May.
Continued on Page Two

Tullytown Auxiliary Plans for Ham Supper

TULLYTOWN, Mar. 5 — Twenty-two members of the Ladies' Auxili-

Neshaminy School Board Votes for Local Authority

Continued from Page One

interest rate yet, on any job I have ever done, I am always in favor of local control."

Collings went on, illustrating his talk with figures, to discuss how much money could be financed at what interest rate. He said, "There is a population of approximately 12,500 in the six districts. They have an assessed valuation for 1952-1953 of better than 11 million dollars. The average millage is 35, and the assessment percentage is $\frac{1}{2}$. The state reimbursement fraction should not be counted on too heavily in estimating the cost annually, because I feel sure that the state will be unable to maintain this program without reduction in the next few years when huge numbers of schools have been built. The reimbursement fractions for the six districts are: Langhorne Borough, 62.22; Langhorne Manor, 33.20; Middletown Township, 61.97; Pennel, 60.92; Lower Southampton Township, 62.69 and Hulmeville, 72.96.

To determine the percentage of state reimbursement square the

numbers that are over 60, and take half of those under sixty. For instance Langhorne Borough would receive 38.71% reimbursement while Langhorne Manor would receive 16.6%. There is an average per capita tax in the districts of \$10, with most of the districts having a real estate transfer tax. I feel that I should warn you that while the transfer tax is at present substantial, it will be reduced by any drop in market values. A per capita tax is also unrelfable."

Collings began to speak of a six or seven mill increase in the tax rate when he was informed that the average 35 mill figure for the six districts included the payment of the bond. Collings then discussed the amount of money that could be borrowed most cheaply. He said, "A school costing \$1.5 million, \$1.8 million and \$2 million could all be financed through a local authority. A \$2 million bond issue would charge an interest rate of about 2.8% for 40 years. This would mean an average yearly rental of \$105,000 plus \$500 to \$1,500 Authority costs. A \$1.5 million school could be financed comfortably at a lower rate. You must not forget to consider the increase in teachers' salaries. There are many problems connected with a \$2 million bond issue. You must try to cut costs so that you can maintain a reserve. Perhaps a cafeteria and auditorium are too elaborate. The bonds can be sold up to \$2 million at an interest rate of less than 3% which is the state minimum, but it would be smart to cut down for the future. I feel sure that in five years you will be grateful for this advice to economize."

Thomas Morris then addressed the board. He said, "There is a great need to maintain strong credit relations. I agree with Collings about the advisability of a local authority. I further feel that the bonds can be sold at the present time for less than 2.5% for \$2 million, and at a lower rate for a smaller bond issue. These figures are based on a 35 mill tax rate. It is essential that that be maintained or reduced. You will be better off to cut costs as far as possible, say to \$1.5 million, and then in two years, when you have established prime credit relations, add the extra facilities at a cheaper cost."

The board then recessed for ten minutes and retired for a half hour to a closed session. A local authority, The Lower Bucks Co. School Authority was then formed to build a \$2 million school. Pres. Paul stated, "We are building a complete package for \$2,000,000 and we want our children in by 1953. We will be forced to go on half session next Fall and we do not want that any longer than it is necessary."

Myron W. Harris, solicitor, stated

that the ground should be broken for the school in three to four months. He added that all bids would be sent out for public bidding.

Philip Lewis, secretary, stated, after the \$540,000 budget was not adopted, that the adoption "was delayed until the next meeting on March 24, due to an expected influx of children into the district which may necessitate a raise in the budget and make it also necessary to re-advertise the budget."

Ass'n for Blind Is Remembered in Will

Continued from Page One

April 14, 1947, and the testator died Jan. 2.

A daughter, Anna E. Winder, will inherit the \$300 personal estate of Ruthanna C. Winder, Morrisville. The testatrix, who died December 28, 1947, made her will June 13, 1945, and Anna E. Winder was named executrix.

Marion V. DeCoursey, and a son, Joseph B., who was named executor, will inherit the \$5,000 personal and \$8,000 real estate holdings of Amanda K. DeCoursey, Warminster twp. The will was made Oct. 14, 1939, and the testatrix died Jan. 4.

Letters of administration in the estate of Caroline M. Ross, Upper Southampton twp., were granted to Phineas P., and J. Russell Ross, Feasterville, and Jamison, respectively, amounting to a personal estate of \$11,933.99. Five sons, Alvin P., Phineas P., Harry H., Edward and J. Russell Ross, and a daughter, Dora M. Ridge, are the heirs. The decedent died Dec. 26, 1951.

TULLYTOWN

Mrs. Frank Martino has been ill at her home the past week.

Plans were discussed for a drive for funds to be used toward the purchase of a new fire truck, Thursday evening, during a meeting of Tullytown Fire Co., held in the fire station. Eighteen attended the meeting, presided over by Edward Paoella. Discussion was held concerning the erection of an addition to the fire station sometime later. Announcement was made of a drive for funds during March, to be used toward the purchase of a new fire truck. There will be a house-to-house canvass made, according to chairman, John Steen; assistant chairman, Edward Paoella; and William Trimble, Earl Johnson, Charles F. Carlen, Kenneth Smith. A card party will be held March 15, at eight p. m., in the fire station.

Coming Events

Mar. 11—

Cord party in K. of C. hall, 8

GET **CASH** HERE



for All
Your
Spring
Needs

If Spring expenses call for extra money, see us for a loan. We advance cash for home and car repairs, purchase of clothing, home furnishings and other needed things, and for other similar purposes. Prompt, courteous service.

To arrange for a loan,
come in or phone.

Loans \$50, \$100, \$200

and up

We Serve Surrounding
Territories

Open Friday Evenings 'til
8 o'clock

Closed Saturdays